

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Schulte (Reg. No. 44,325) on April 27, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

- - 1. (Currently Amended) A pump, comprising:

a case having a hollow inside defined by an inner wall surface thereof and including a first through hole through which fluid is sucked in the hollow and a second through hole through which the fluid is ejected from the hollow;

a rotor that is rotatable in the hollow and having a rotary shaft and a through groove formed on the rotor in a direction across the rotary shaft; and

a partition supported in the through groove slidably in the direction across the rotary shaft, the partition being rotatable with the rotor with at least both ends of the partition, with respect to the direction across the rotary shaft, in constant contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow upon rotation of the rotor, wherein:

the hollow is partitioned into a plurality of chambers each enclosed by the case, the rotor, and the partition member; ~~and~~

the rotor and the case are structured such that at least one of the rotor and the case selectively moves between a first position where the rotor is in contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow ~~[the rotor and the case are in contact with each other]~~ during a purging operation and a second position where the rotor and the inner wall surface ~~[case]~~ are separate from each other during a printing operation;

during the purging operation when the rotor rotates and makes contact with the inner wall surface, the first through hole and the second through hole are present in different chambers; and

during the printing operation, the rotor stops at a rotational position where the first through hole and the second through hole are in fluid communication with each other. - -

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 15 "when the pump is not in operation" has been changed to - - during the printing operation - -.

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

- - 16. (Currently Amended) An inkjet printer comprising:
an inkjet head that ejects ink toward a recording medium;
an ink tank that contains ink for supplying the inkjet head;
a pump, comprising:

a case having a hollow inside defined by an inner wall surface thereof and including a first through hole through which fluid is sucked in the hollow and a second through hole through which the fluid is ejected from the hollow;

a rotor that is rotatable in the hollow and having a rotary shaft and a through groove formed on the rotor in a direction across the rotary shaft; and

a partition supported in the through groove slidably in the direction across the rotary shaft, the partition being rotatable with the rotor with at least both ends of the partition, with respect to the direction across the rotary shaft, in constant contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow upon rotation of the rotor, wherein:

the pump is connected between the inkjet head and the ink tank, and the hollow is partitioned into a plurality of chambers each enclosed by the case, the rotor, and the partition; ~~[-and]~~

the rotor and the case are structured such that at least one of the rotor and the case selectively moves between a first position where the rotor is in contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow ~~[-the rotor and the case are in contact with each other]~~ during a purging operation and a second position where the rotor and the inner wall surface ~~[-case]~~ are separate from each other during a printing operation;

during the purging operation when the rotor rotates and makes contact with the inner wall surface, the first through hole and the second through hole are present in different chambers; and

during the printing operation, the rotor stops at a rotational position where the first through hole and the second through hole are in fluid communication with each other. - -

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

- - 21. (Currently amended) The inkjet printer of claim 16, wherein ~~when the rotor is stopped at a rotational position when the pump is not in~~ **during the printing** operation, the rotor has a passage that provides communication between the first through hole and the second through hole with the rotor stopped at the rotational position, and when ink is ejected from the inkjet head with the rotor stopped at the rotational position, ink is supplied from the ink tank via the passage to the inkjet head. -
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Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

- - 22. (Currently Amended) A pump, comprising:
a case having a hollow inside defined by an inner wall surface thereof and including a first through hole and a second through hole through which the fluid is ejected from the hollow;
a rotor that is rotatable in the hollow and having a rotary shaft and a through ~~[hole]~~ **groove** formed on the rotor in a direction across the rotary shaft; and
a partition supported in the through groove slidably in the direction across the rotary shaft, the partition being rotatable with the rotor with at least both ends of the partition member, with respect to the direction across the rotary shaft, in constant

contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow upon rotation of the rotor, wherein:

the rotor and the case are structured such that the rotor and the case selectively move between a first position where **the rotor is in contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow** ~~[the rotor and the case are in contact with each other]~~ during a purging operation and a second position where the rotor and the **inner wall surface** ~~[case]~~ are separate from each other during a printing operation;

during the purging operation when the rotor rotates and makes contact with the inner wall surface, the first through hole and the second through hole are present in different chambers; and

during the printing operation, the rotor stops at a rotational position where the first through hole and the second through hole are in fluid communication with each other. - -

Claim 23 has been amended as follows:

- - 23. (Currently Amended) A pump, comprising:

a case having a hollow inside defined by an inner wall surface thereof and including a first through hole through which fluid is sucked in the hollow and a second through hole through which the fluid is ejected from the hollow;

a rotor that is rotatable in the hollow and having a rotary shaft and a first through groove and a second through groove formed on the rotor in a direction across the rotary shaft;

a partition supported in the first through groove slidable in the direction across the rotary shaft, the partition being rotatable with the rotor with at least both ends of the partition, with respect to the direction across the rotary shaft, in constant contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow upon rotation of the rotor, wherein:

a first end of the second through groove is adjacent to the first through hole and a second end of the second through groove is adjacent to the second through hole **in order to provide fluid communication between the first through hole and the second through hole** when the rotor is not rotating during a printing operation, and

the first end and the second end of the second through groove move to a side of the partition opposite a side with the first through hole and the second through hole when the rotor is rotating during a purging operation. - -

Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

- - 26. (Currently Amended) A pump, comprising:

a case having a hollow inside defined by an inner wall surface thereof and including a first through hole through which fluid is sucked in the hollow and a second through hole through which the fluid is ejected from the hollow;

a rotor that is rotatable in the hollow and having a rotary shaft and a through groove formed on the rotor in a direction across the rotary shaft; and

a partition supported in the through groove slidably in the direction across the rotary shaft, the partition being rotatable with the rotor with at least both ends of the

partition, with respect to the direction across the rotary shaft, in constant contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow upon rotation of the rotor, wherein:

the hollow is partitioned into a plurality of chambers each enclosed by the case, the rotor, and the partition,

the rotor has a communication passage connecting two places on an outer peripheral surface and the rotor rotates in constant contact with the inner wall surface defining the hollow, and

the rotor is structured that the rotor selectively moves between a first position where the communication passage is located on a side of the partition with the first through hole and the second through hole in order to provide fluid communication between the first through hole and the second through hole when the rotor is not rotating during a printing operation and a second position where the communication passage is not located on the side of the partition with the first through hole and the second through hole as the rotor rotates during a purging operation. - -

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARY A. DAVIS whose telephone number is (571)272-9965. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday; 5:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion can be reached on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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